**Content Area Question Stems**

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| **Words & Phrases in Context**   * Read this sentence from the passage… What does ­ mean as used in the sentence above? * Which phrase best describes both in passage 1 and in passage 2? * Read this sentence from the article… What does the sentence above tell readers about ? * Read the excerpt from the passage… In which sentence does have the same meaning as used in the excerpt above? |  | **Author’s Purpose & Perspective**   * Read this sentence from the passage… The author uses this to compare to * What is the most likely reason the author included the section in the article? * What was the author’s purpose in writing this passage? (do not use generic options like “to inform”, “to persuade”, etc.) * The author of the article would most likely make the statement that |
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| **Main Idea, Relevant Details & Making Inferences**   * Which statement best expresses the main idea of the article? * According to the article, why…/who…/in what ways did…? * From reading the article, the reader can infer that * Based on the passage, what action does the author want the reader to take? |  | **Comparison, Cause & Effect**   * According to the article, what do have in common? * According to the article how did differ from ? * The is different from the other text features because it * According to the article, what is one effect of ? * What caused ? |
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| **Text Structures & Text Features**   * Based on the heading and subheadings, the reader can determine that the main organizational structure of the article is (do not use generic options like “chronological order”, “problem/solution”, etc.) * How does the author organize the information in the passage to illustrate ? * How does the organization of the chapter/article/website help readers ? * Based on the passage, which caption would be most appropriate for the picture on page X? * Which statement from the passage is best supported by the diagram? * The use of bold-print words throughout the passage helps the reader to (don’t use generic options) |  | **Analysis, Evaluation, Synthesis, Validity & Reliability**   * The passage would be useful for all of the following purposes EXCEPT * Which aspects of the article would be most helpful in writing a research report about * Based on the passage, how does the author support the idea that * Which sentence from the article best explains why ? * What is the strongest evidence in support of ? |